





# THE INDEPENDENT

MAIN STREET, GRIMSBY, ONT.

JAS. A. LIVINGSTON, Owner and Manager  
J. ORLON LIVINGSTON, Editor.

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## Our Fruit and Farm Column

### BOARDS OF AGRICULTURE

The Farmer's Institutes of Ontario, one of the oldest agricultural organizations of the Province, was established in 1884 by Dr. James Mills, ex-president of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. The Institute has been a medium through which most commendable work has been done in bringing to the farmers of the Province up-to-date agricultural information. This organization has been most liberally supported, by the Provincial Department of Agriculture and much appreciated by a large percentage of the farmers of the Province. Those who are closely associated with the Institutes and other agricultural associations and efforts have decided after careful enquiry and consideration that if the Institute is to maintain its high standing as an educative, agricultural institution, it must be re-organized.

The new organization is to be known as a "Board of Agriculture," each Board covering the same territory as the old Institute in all sections south and east of Muskoka. Any person, interested in agriculture, on the payment of the annual fee of 25c., may become a member of this board, whose Directors shall consist of—

(a) Two representatives from each Farmers' Club or Junior Farmers' Association.

(b) One representative from each Agricultural Society.

(c) One representative from each township, unless there are none of the above named organizations in the township, when two members may be appointed.

(d) District Representative.

(e) Three representatives from the District Women's Institute, one being the district secretary.

(f) The president, vice-president and secretary of the Farmers' Institute for the previous year.

(g) The Board will have power to add to its members by including representatives from any other agricultural organization in the riding, or from a Board of Trade or Publicity Association.

The Board shall also elect a representative executive committee whose duty it shall be to supervise all the work undertaken by the Board of Agriculture.

The aim of the Boards of Agriculture shall be to improve the nature of the public meetings held in each district controlled by a Board. Fewer meetings than formerly, will be held, but an energetic effort will be made to make each one of a highly beneficial nature. Only the most competent speakers will be employed and each will be, so far as such can be secured, a specialist in the particular line of agriculture prevailing in the district where he is sent to speak.

The Department will encourage, in every way, the organization of Farmers' Clubs. While these Clubs are expected to rely principally on their own members for the discussion of interesting topics and thus develop their own local talent, the Department will assist these Clubs by sending speakers capable of discussing the subjects desired by the Club members.

The Institutes Branch, Department

of Agriculture, will co-operate with the District Representative and the local Board of Agriculture in an endeavor to improve the quality of the live stock of the district by holding Short Courses for the judging of live stock, by assisting in the formation of breeding clubs and shipping associations, and in the discussion of these or any other agricultural topics thought advisable by the Board of Agriculture.

The Farmers' Clubs, Agricultural Societies and Township Reeves and Clerks have been asked to appoint representatives to the Board of Agriculture for their respective districts and to send the names of the persons appointed to the person who is to act as secretary of the Board in the meantime. In most cases this is the secretary of the Institute and in some cases the District Representative.

We wish to impress upon the farmers generally that meetings will be given only to those districts which take the necessary action in appointing representatives to the Board; so those Township Councils which have not yet taken action and are desirous of having one or more agricultural meetings should send the names of representatives to the secretary of the Board at the earliest date possible and not later in any case than the 8th or 10th of May, thus giving the Secretary, District Representative and the Officers of the present Farmers' Institute sufficient time to arrange for the district annual meeting to be held in May or June, and which will be devoted first to winding up the affairs of the old Institute and secondly to organizing a Board of Agriculture.

The Department will insist on a local committee being appointed for each meeting asked for. We must have assurance from representative local men that they will co-operate in an effort to make a Short Course or meeting a success before speakers will be assigned. The officers of the Board of Agriculture will be required to get out special advertising material for each meeting, and on this announcement a definite programme must be given.

The Department is prepared to be more liberal than in the past so far as the supplying of speakers is concerned. No charge will be made for either services or expenses of speakers and the grants to the Boards of Agriculture will be more liberal than to the old Institute. The boards will be required to secure a grant of \$25.00 from the Township Councils or the County Council, and the Department of Agriculture will make a grant of from \$25.00 to \$50.00, depending upon the amount received from local sources. We wish to impress the farmers with the fact that it will be necessary for them to take action and properly organize a Board of Agriculture in each electoral district if they wish to have meetings next winter.

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terest in the proposed meetings and that a live local committee has been appointed to arrange for advertising, securing stock for demonstration purposes, etc., the Department of Agriculture will co-operate in supplying speakers and demonstrators competent to make all meetings of educational value to the members of the Board of Agriculture.  
GEO. A. PUTNAM, Supt.

### APIARY DEMONSTRATIONS 1916.

**FEED OR FIGHT.** We have raised an enormous army of fighting men. Many of them have dropped their tools in the shops, left their machines, locked up their desks or have left the ranks of the fighters to swell the ranks of the fighters. We cannot all go to the firing line to fight, but we can do our utmost to feed those who have, and their dependents whom they have left to our care.

Honey is a staple that is sometimes classed as a luxury. It has a very real food value and at this time when sugar is so expensive it should be more extensively used than ever before. The production must be maintained.

To help you "KEEP BETTER BEES AND TO KEEP BEES BETTER," the Ontario Department of Agriculture is arranging to hold Apiary Demonstrations in all parts of the Province. The practical nature of the programme is very inviting to all interested in beekeeping and in almost any district a good attendance is assured, provided the weather is suitable. A specially trained practical beekeeper is sent to take charge of the meeting and handle the bees, and he is generally assisted by local beekeepers. Several hives are opened and the actual working of the bees explained. Often a queenless colony or one preparing to swarm serves as an excellent object lesson. No matter how many or how few colonies you keep you are sure to learn something at one of these meetings.

Already arrangements are well under way for over fifty of these meetings. The Department of Agriculture attends to all the advertising and supplies the speaker, so that the beekeepers do not incur any expense whatever.

Interested beekeepers desirous of having demonstrations in their apiaries should communicate immediately with Mr. Morley Pettit, Department of Agriculture, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, so that arrangements can be made for the meetings.

### PRODUCTION TO THE FARMER

Is the arm tone of the horse market? Is the present high price for that stock rest upon a secure foundation? May he look forward with any confidence to the next season's or next year's market? Should he produce, as against an advertised shortage, and high price for all classes of farm animals, by breeding a larger number of mares or of cows, sheep, fags and poultry? We are confident that the farmer has never been in a more secure position than the present, as regards the extension of his breeding operations, but, to enable him to form more easily his own conclusions, the following facts are submitted:

#### Horses

Since the outbreak of the war, the British Remount Commission has purchased in Canada 15,000 horses. 8,000 have been bought by French contractors and 25,000 by the Canadian Department of Militia. The Department of Militia is now engaged in buying an additional thousand head. The British Remount Commission has purchased over 700 since March and is buying daily in Montreal. French contractors are anxious to obtain supplies and are arranging to buy all that are available both in the East and in the West. It is understood that as a result of the purchases already made, army buyers are finding it increasingly difficult, both in United States and in Canada, to readily secure the number of horses which they require, particularly of the type suitable for heavy cavalry or heavy artillery.

In addition to the purchases for army account, commercial activity on two distinct quarters has exerted a very evident influence upon the Canadian horse market during the last three or four months. Since the beginning of the year, 6,900 horses reached the Winnipeg Stock Yards on Eastern Canada and 5,917 were shipped from the same yards westward, mostly to Saskatchewan. During the months of January, February and March, 1,805 horses were exported to the United States. A few hundred more went forward to the same market in April. The horses exported are good farm chunks weighing from 1,300 to 1,500 lbs. As high as 60.00 a pair was paid for animals possessing extra quality and conformation. This new movement in the horse market is having its effect upon local sales all over Canada.

Buyers report that the better class of drafters and farm chunks are being scarce and hard to buy. The new holds true of good big roadsters and saddlers. The noticeable scarcity of good horses of these descriptions states the fact that demand has nearly overtaken supply and makes very evident that all the really good sound mares in the country will be bred this year. It cannot be strongly emphasized, however, they should be mated only with the very best class sires. The number of horses rejected by army buyers clearly indicates that there is no room for the unsound animals have been, now and always will be a drug on the market. Breed to the best if you would have the best. Unsound or mated mares are just as bad as mated stallions. It is easier to raise a mated animal than a poor one. Many of the work this spring in order that the mare on the farm may be ready to return to the work. Next a good crop of sound, healthy will be as good as a bank account. Canada is likely to enter short commercial export market. market will require all you can do.

### THRIFT IN MEAT CONSUMPTION

The following figures taken from the Agricultural War Book for 1916, giving the annual consumption of meat per capita in the countries mentioned, were, of course, compiled before the commencement of hostilities in Europe in August 1914:

Country	Lbs.
Australia.....	175
United States.....	172
Argentina.....	140
Canada.....	136 3/4
United Kingdom.....	119
Germany.....	113
France.....	80
Denmark.....	76
Norway and Sweden.....	74
Belgium.....	70
Austria-Hungary.....	64
Russia.....	50
Spain.....	49

Reduced to ounces the foregoing means that for each man, woman or child in the countries enumerated there are consumed approximately the following quantities of meat on an average each day:

Country	Oz.
Australia.....	7-2-3
United States.....	7-1-2
Argentina.....	6-1-7
Canada.....	6
United Kingdom.....	5-1-2
France.....	3-1-3
Denmark.....	3-1-3
Norway and Sweden.....	3-1-4
Belgium.....	3
Austria-Hungary.....	2-4-5
Russia.....	2-1-5
Spain.....	2

The four countries latest to develop, it will be noticed, are the largest meat consumers. There are several reasons for this, one is the freer life the people lead, another is the abundance of the flocks and herds, and a third is the largeness of the open country.

The next two, Britain and Germany, have leisure classes and ruling castes that are great meat-eaters. France is noted for daintiness of food into which other elements than meat enter to some extent. All the remaining countries have large peasant and poorly paid industrial classes whose circumstances compel severe measures of economy and thrift. Germany and France possess similar elements, but the dominating military class in the first-named country are most indulgent in the consumption of meat and hearty food.

In Britain the consumption is more evenly distributed than in any other European country hence the position of the home country in the table.

Turning to ourselves the question, in the first place, is do we not eat too much meat, and do we ever consume more for export, that more money would come into the country and that we should be practicing that highest form of economy—national thrift?

In the second place, the problem that presents itself, is how much of the six ounces credited to each individual per day is actually consumed and how much wasted? In other words how much fat, bone, gristle and skin are thrown into the fire or garbage barrel that could be used perhaps for food and if not for fertilization, or for some manufacturing purpose. It has been stated that fully ten per cent. of the food in the principal hotels and restaurants is thrown away, possibly absolutely to the dogs, but more likely as valueless and altogether useless. The government in its encouragement of the saving habit and discouragement of wastefulness, has called upon the people to preserve paper and rags. In the eating of less meat and the saving of the seeming refuse are surely other ways in which Canadians can practise both those eminent qualities—economy and thrift.

### BILL'S TENOR AND MY BASS

Bill was short and dapper, while I was thin and tall; I had flowing whiskers, but Bill had none at all; Clothes would never seem to set so nice on me as him,— Folks used to laugh, and say I was too powerful slim,— But Bill's clothes fit him like the paper on the wall; And we were the spariestest beaux in all the place When Bill sung tenor and I sung bass.

Cyrus Baker's oldest girl was member of the choir,— Eyes as black as Kelsey's cat, and cheeks as red as fire! She had the best soprano voice I think I ever heard,— Sung "Coronation," "Burlington" and "Chiny" like a bird; Never done better than with Bill a-standin' high 'er. A-holdin' of her hymn-book so she wouldn't lose the place, When Bill sung tenor and I sung bass.

Then there was Prudence Hubbard, so cooey-like and fat,— She sung alto, and wore a pee-wee hat; Beamed her around one winter, and, first thing I knew, One evenin' on the portico I up called her "Prue"! But, sakes alive! she didn't mind a little thing like that; On all the works of Province she set a cheerful face When Bill was singin' tenor and I was singin' bass.

Bill, never more we two shall share the fun we used to then, Nor know the comfort and the peace we had together when We lived in Massachusetts in the good old courtin' days, And lifted up our voices in psalms and hymns of praise. Oh, how I wish that I could live them happy times again! For life, as we boys knew it, had a sweet, peculiar grace When you was singin' tenor and I was singin' bass.

The music folks have nowadays aint what it used to be, Because there aint no singers now on earth like me and me. Vixen Lemuel P. as, who used to go to Springfield twice a year, Admited that for singin' Bill and me had not a peer

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When Bill was soarin' up to A and I dropped down to D! The old bull-fiddle Beza Dimmitt played warn't in the race 'Longside of Bill's high tenor and my seniorious bass.

Bill moved to Californy in the spring of '54 And we folks that used to know him never knew him any more; Then Cyrus Baker's oldest girl, she kind o' pined a spell, And, hankerin' after sympathy, it naterally befell That she married Deacon Pitkin's boy, who kept the general store; And so the years, the changeful years, have rattled on apace Since Bil sung tenor and I sung bass.

As I was settin' by the stove this evenin' after tea, I noticed wife kep' hitchin' close and closer up to me; And as she patched the gingham frock our gran'child wore to-day, I heerd her gin a sigh that seemed to come from fur away. Couldn't help inquirin' what the trouble might be; "Was thinkin' of the time," says Prue, a-breshin' at her face, When Bill sung tenor and you sung bass.

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